

# STREET SMART

July 3, 2002

Governments  
**SANBAG**  
Working Together

## Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

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### ■ Funding plan to allow I-215 project to stay on track

The widening of Interstate 215 in San Bernardino will begin as planned in 2004, following the Board's adoption of a funding plan that will provide sufficient cash flow during the five-year project.

In the spring, staff at the California Transportation Commission (CTC) proposed postponing funding for both the I-215 widening project and the continued construction of State Route 210, thereby delaying both projects three years. Through discussions between SANBAG, Caltrans and the CTC, funding for the 210 extension was restored, and a high priority was placed on securing funding for I-215. This new funding plan addresses that priority.

Under the plan, funding is heavily dependent upon Measure I, San Bernardino County's half-cent transportation sales tax. While \$172 million in Measure I funds are needed to provide a cash flow for construction, the net cost to the measure would be only \$53 million, due to future state reimbursement of \$119 million.

The project will involve adding a carpool lane in each direction for six miles between Orange Show Road and the State Route 259 split. Construction on the first two segments -- Orange Show Road to Mill Street and Rialto Avenue to 9th Street -- is due to start in the summer of 2004.



### ■ Board mixed on SANBAG involvement with Maglev

More information is needed before SANBAG can act on a request from the California-Nevada Super Speed Train Commission to fund studies for developing southern California portions of a proposed Maglev (magnetic levitation) transportation system through the two states.

SANBAG, the cities of Ontario, Anaheim and Victorville, the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District and the Orange County Transportation Authority each have been asked to contribute up to \$125,000 toward preconstruction planning and engineering of the system. The Super Speed Train Commission would contribute \$1.175 toward the study.

Board members were mixed on whether SANBAG should support the study. Some members encouraged participation in the study, because the completed Maglev project would link San Bernardino and Orange counties. Other members expressed reservations due to long-term funding uncertainties. Staff will work to get more information from the commission and report back to the Board at a later date.

### ■ SANBAG Board honors Bair for long-time service

It was back in the days of tie-dyed shirts and bell-bottomed pants when Mike Bair joined SANBAG. A transplant from Ohio, Bair came west to join SANBAG in 1975, just two years after the agency was formed.

Bair was hired as a temporary employee in September 1975 to write a short-range transit plan for San Bernardino County. Now the director of rail/transit programs, Bair has been involved in the creation of



every public transit system in the county, including Metrolink, Omnitrans, Victor Valley Transit Authority, Barstow Area Transit, Mountain Area Regional Transit Authority, Needles Area Transit and Morongo Basin Transit Authority.

Board members honored him for his long-time service to the agency with the presentation of a pin for 25 years of dedicated service as part of SANBAG's new employee recognition program.

### Down the Road ...

- July 10: Administrative Committee, then tour of Santa Fe Depot, 9 a.m.; Commuter Rail Committee, 12 noon
- July 15: VVTA premier bus service to start
- July 17: Plans and Programs Committee, 12 noon
- July 18: Mountain/Desert Committee, 9 a.m.
- July 24: SCRRA Delegates Briefing, 8:30 a.m.

## Board takes first step toward renewal of Measure I

November 2004 set as tentative target date for renewal election

SANBAG's Board members voted unanimously to begin looking seriously at returning a sales tax measure to the voters for approval tentatively in November 2004.

Adopted by San Bernardino County voters in 1989, Measure I has provided funding for a host of transportation projects countywide. This half-cent sales tax is expected to generate \$1.8 billion over the life of the 20-year measure.

This month's issue of "Measuring Success" takes a look at key issues related to the possible renewal of the measure.

### Board action

Members adopted a three-part recommendation regarding renewal activities. These included:

- Designating November 2004 as a tentative election date;
- Adopting a timeline of tasks to be completed prior to the election;
- Directing staff to review funds needed for an election, with the intent to have the Board make a final decision on renewal this winter.

### Change in voting threshold since 1989

Measure I passed in 1989 with a 59.8% approval rate. Since that time, court cases and the approval of Proposition 218 raised the voter requirement for all "special" taxes, including local option transportation sales taxes, to a super-majority or two-thirds requirement.

During the 1999-2000 legislative session, the California legislature considered Senate Constitutional Amendment 3 (SCA 3), which proposed placing before voters the opportunity to change the super-majority requirement for transportation sales taxes to a simple majority. While SCA 3 passed in the Senate, it failed in the Assembly. As it stands, a two-thirds requirement is needed for renewal.



Photos: Top - Metrolink trains serve more than 10,000 commuters daily on the San Bernardino Line. Above - SANBAG and Caltrans prepare for the opening of new carpool lanes on State Route 60 in 1997. Top right: Six miles of State Route 210 opened to motorists in August 2001; 14 additional miles will open this fall. Above right: Victorville's Transportation Center is one of several centers funded by Measure I.



### Project list

SANBAG will begin developing a draft list of projects to include in the next measure,

should the Board finalize plans to pursue renewal. This step will require extensive review by SANBAG's policy committees and the Board. Opinion polling also may be used to refine this list.



### Looking to Riverside County

Riverside County will place a renewal of its Measure A on the November 2002 ballot. Support for the measure looks promising, according to recent polling by the Riverside County Transportation Commission. The new measure, if adopted, would extend Riverside County's tax for a 30-year term, once the present measure expires in 2008. If approved, the new sales tax is projected to generate a total of \$4.5 billion for Riverside County transportation projects over the 30-year period.

SANBAG will review Riverside County's election results and activities in preparation of a possible renewal election in San Bernardino County.